

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said security association is an IPSEC security association.

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 8, 16 and 19 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of any base claim and any intervening claims. Without waving any of Applicant's earlier positions regarding the patentability of original claims 1-20 over the references cited by the Examiner, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9 and 18 to include the features of claims 8, 16 and 19, respectively.

Entry of this Amendment After Final (AAF) is solicited because the AAF: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues regarding further search; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and/or (d) places the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that claims 1-7, 9-18 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

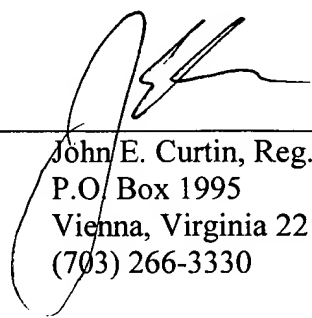
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin, Esq. at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3777 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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